GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
MAHILA BANK BRANCHES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the RBI has advised the public sector banks to open more mahila branches;

(b) if so, the action taken by the banks thereon; and

(c) the other steps being taken by the banks to cater the credit needs of women customers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised public sector banks to open specialized branchesfor women in identified areas for catering exclusively or at least predominantly to the requirements of women entrepreneurs in an integrated manner.

(b) Banks are exploring the possibility of opening specialized branches for women by identifying potential centers and their viability. As per information available, two banks viz. Union Bankof India and Allahabad Bank have converted one branch each into Women`s branch at Mumbai and New Delhi respectively. Canara Bank has recently opened one Mahila Bankingbranch at Bangalore which is exclusively catering to women clients.

(c) The feed back received from the banks indicate that they are making efforts by redefining their policies/long term plans by taking into account women`s requirements. They are also increasing the percentage of credit to women and earmarking to achieve 5 per cent of Net Bank Credit (NBC) for women by March, 2004. The credit to women at 2.36 per cent of NBCat the end of March 2001 has increased to 3.38 per cent of NBC as at the end of September,2001 (provisional). In addition, the reports from banks also show that there has been progress in banks regarding establishing of women cells at head office/regional offices and branches, orientation of bank officers/staff on gender concerns/credit requirements of women, launching publicity campaigns, conducting entrepreneurship development programmes for women, strengthening existing schemes, involving Non Government Organisations/Sefl Help Groupsin providing credit facilities to women entrepreneurs. Banks are also now maintaining data base on credit flow to women under different categories.